

Filed for intro on 04/05/2001

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 161
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION To honor Ralph and Irene Overholt on the
celebration of their sixty-fifth wedding
anniversary.

WHEREAS, This General Assembly takes great pleasure in honoring those successful marriages that have prevailed to serve as standards for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt were joined in holy matrimony on the 13th of April 1936; since that wonderful day, this outstanding couple has faced the world as one, depending upon their love for each other during life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene met while attending High School in Hamblen County; both were very active in school sports, Irene was a star basketball player and Ralph a talented runner in track and field; he received an athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Overholt, Sr., an only child, grew up on a farm in the Brights Community of Hamblen County; his father was a highly respected Baptist preacher, who served several churches in the Hamblen County area; and

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WHEREAS, Irene Overholt was born in Galax, Virginia and moved to Morristown when she was still a toddler; she was the youngest of five children; her brothers Wayne, Grey, and Harve were fiercely protective of their baby sister; Irene's sister, Alouise, was her best friend; sadly, Wayne, Grey, and Alouise have passed away; Harve lives in Morristown, near his sister; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt began their married life on the farm where Ralph grew up; being a city girl, Irene did not know a great deal about farm life, but thanks to Ralph's mother, Irene learned quickly; and

WHEREAS, When World War II began, Ralph Overholt, Sr. proudly served his country by joining the Army Air Corps; he was assigned to the 38th Bomb Group of the 5th Air Force in the Pacific; and Irene Overholt was left stateside with their first daughter, Patricia Ann; like many women during World War II, she went to work, obtaining a job at Hamilton National Bank; and

WHEREAS, Ralph returned home after three years overseas and started a plumbing and heating business; and

WHEREAS, The couple was finally able to enjoy their growing family with the birth of their second child, Alice Louise, followed by their third child, Elizabeth Susan; with the arrival of Ralph, Jr., Ralph Overholt, Sr. was blessed with a son; one more girl most likely would have sent him over the edge; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt are Charter Members of the Morristown Country Club, where they are still very active; they are both excellent golfers and avid fans of the game; Irene also enjoys playing tennis; and

WHEREAS, Irene Overholt is a valuable member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Ralph Overholt, Sr. has always been active in the community as an official for the County Recreation League; a former basketball referee, he still umpires softball games in the summer; for an 87 year-old, he can still call a good and fair ball game; several years ago the

Lions Club of Hamblen County recognized Ralph for his 50 years of service to the youth of Hamblen County; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt are both active members of their separate churches; Irene is a member of the First United Methodist Church and Ralph is a member of the First Baptist Church, which is across the street from the church Irene attends; both steadfast in their faith, they would not compromise and attend a church together; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene have always been deeply devoted to their family; their marriage was a partnership before partnership became a catchword; Irene, as a wife and mother, has made her home a haven of joy and beauty; and

WHEREAS, Of their many accomplishments, Ralph and Irene Overholt are proudest of their family; in addition to being blessed with the love of their four children, a son-in-law, and a daughter-in-law, they have been blessed with five grandchildren: Alice, Ann, Tracy, Cliff, and Heather and eight great-grandchildren ranging from 13 years old to 2 years old: Caitlin, Ashlin, Taylor, Cody, Clayton, Corey, Analeis, and Christopher; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene's grandchildren have special memories of their grandparents: spending summer days with them at the Country Club, jumping off the high dive for the first time, watching Grandpa umpire softball games, and always going to church with Grandma; and

WHEREAS, Of all the things Irene taught her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren one special rule sticks out, "Pretty is as Pretty does"; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt have taught their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren well, passing along traditions and values that are sometimes lost in today's busy world; and

WHEREAS, Their secret to sixty-five years of blissful marriage is separate dens and of course, separate remote controls; and

WHEREAS, Ralph and Irene Overholt are loved and admired by their family and friends;
and

WHEREAS, For sixty-five years this union has endured to serve as a testament to the
power of love and family; and

WHEREAS, Marriages such as theirs represent the best of our society, as they remind
us of the beauty and value of continuity and commitment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Ralph and Irene Overholt on the
celebration of their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much
continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.